

THE

Jan 30 5
CASE

OF

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Matthias Brinsden,

Cloath-Drawer, in *Black-Fryers* ; who
was Executed on *Monday, September,*
24. 1722. for the Inhumane
MURTHUR of his Wife.

The most Part Revised and Corrected by
Himself ; with a True COPY of the
PAPER he Deliver'd at the Place of
Execution, and other PAPERs, which
he Desir'd to be Publish'd when Living.

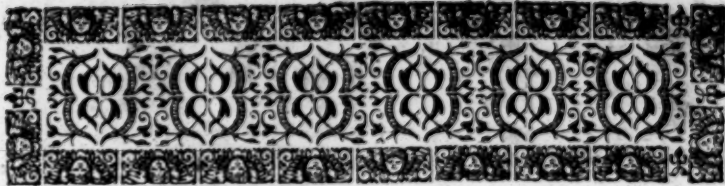
L O N D O N :

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Warwick-Lane. (Price Three Pence.)

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Rec. Jan. 27, 1966



To the PUBLISHER.

Mr. Mawson,

FINDING my self justly Convicted for the Unfortunate Murder of my most Dear and Loving Wife, I think it is now time to put my self seriously in a Posture of Dying, to have an Eye beyond the Grave, to look to him that is Invisible, to turn my Thoughts whither I am going, and to take a Prospect of that Place I am Traveling to that will certainly bring me to Eternity, where I shall Abide for Ever, without any possibility of Returning on this side the Grave, to be Try'd whether I would lead my Life better a second time; and being certain that the Fatal Hour will very speedily come upon me, when I shall be Summon'd by Death to to give up my last Account, and to Receive my Dismission from this World.

As the Uncharitable part of the Neighbourhood I Liv'd in, has been so notoriously Wicked, to asperse my Family with Crimes that I nor any of them were ever Guilty of; I suppose my Death, were it the most Cruel that could be invented, would never silence the Malicious Insinuations of such base Reporters; However I have this Comfort, that as there is like to be a considerable Time before the Sentence will be Executed upon me, by the Assistance of my Friends I may Vindicate my self to the Charitable part of the World; and as it may lye in your Way, not only from what Business you are of, or may have been concern'd in, but also from a Knowledge of me for almost thirty Years, you will not refuse me your Neighbourly Assistance in that Affair.

It would have been a great Comfort to me, if I had seen any likelihood of this Malice Dying with me; but such it is, as to endeavour if possible to Torment a Man in my Circumstances, who had he never so many Days to Live, would find he had Work enough upon his Hands to make Attonement for Sins of such a deep Dye as mine, which would require more than Thousands of Rivers of Tears to Wash away; if my Merciful Redeemer was to have no more Compassion of my most Miserable Condition, than those who would (if it lay in their Power) Judge me even beyond the Grave, and sling the greatest Ignominy

TO the PUBLISHER.

upon the Surviving part of my miserable Family, who to the View of any considerate Person, have Afflictions enough upon them already.

I find the principal Current of all this Malice, is from an Idle Report that my Eldest Daughter had been Deluded by me to the Unnatural Sin of Incest, a Crime my Soul Abhors! And I pray God to give them as true a Sense of their Crimes, as I hope he has me a sincere and unfeigned Repentance for mine. When we see another Suffer, we ought to consider, that the same Punishment may befall us, if God's Mercy and our own Reformation don't prevent it; for I as little thought to suffer this Shameful Death, as any of these Malicious People; and this I can tell them by Experience, that if they give the Devil too much Rooting in them, they may stand in as much need of God's Grace as I have done. However, I hope my Example may Restrain them and other People from giving too much Liberty to their Passions, which (without the particular Favour of Heaven) will bring them to the same Miserable Exit.

I am SIR,

Newgate,

Your Unfortunate Friend

Sept. 8. 1722.

MATHIAS BRINSDEN,



The



THE
CASE
OF
MATHIAS BRINSDEN.

HERE has not happen'd so many Instances of Unnatural Murthers, as the last Assizes, and the Sessions in the *Old-Baily*, have lately Convicted, in this nor the last Century, nor perhaps ever since the Laws of *England* made Murther Criminal. At the Assize at *Oxford*, One *Spicer Bromely*, was Convicted for the Murther of his Father, at *Lincoln* a Woman for the Murther of her Husband, a Girl for the Murther of her Grandmother, at *London* a Woman for the Murther of her Child, and this Mr. *Brinsden*, for the Murther of his Wife; but as the Others were designedly Committed, this latter was Committed in the Heat of an Excessive Passion, he had a considerable time suffer'd to much to grow upon him.

He was about 45 Years of Age, brought up by his Father who was a Cloath-Drawer in *St. Andrews Holbourn*, to his own Business, first Covenanted to one Mr. *Beech*, a Cloath-Drawer in *Ireland-Yard*, in *Black-Fryers*, and afterwards to one Mr. *Byfield*, who succeeded Mr. *Beech*, in his Business, who dying about four or five and Twenty Years ago, the whole Business came into the Hands of this *Matthias Brinsden*, who soon after Marry'd the Deceas'd, who was a very reputable Sober Servant, and was every way qualified to make a Tradesman a very good Wife, having been sometime Servant in a Taylor's House in the same Parish, with whom her Husband dealt considerably for what he had Occasion to be done in his Way. At the time of her Marriage, her Mother who was a Waterman's Widdow, having other Children, Mr. *Brinsden* at the desire of his Wife, took one of them
Apprentice,

Apprentice, and as her Mother had nothing but what she earn'd by her own Hands, was unable to give any thing with him, but to make her Son in Law amends, Apprentic'd him for a longer time than usual, his Name was *Henry Wright*, and is the same Person that Prosecuted him for the Murther, but I shall pass by what might be further said of him, that it may occasion no Reflections, upon what he has been commendable for.

Being settled in the World, he had for some time Business enough for himself, his Wife, and an Apprentice or two; and as his Children grew up, taught two of the Daughters his Business, but not having made Provision sufficient for what Afflictions afterwards came upon him, which was a violent Fever, that brought such a Distraction upon him that he was forc'd to be ty'd in his Bed for several Months; this made him in very bad Circumstances with the World, for as they were almost reduc'd to sell the Beds from under them, his Family large, and himself a long time before he recover'd Strength sufficient to manage his Business, that even when he could, the Debts his Family had contracted in his Sickness, would not let him shew his Head, and other People had displac'd him of a considerable part of his Business, which chiefly consisted among Merchants and Taylors, the former by reason of his Poverty, not caring to trust such Quantities of Cloath as Usual; and the latter by knowing his Necessity, grinding him to such scanty Prizes, that he never after Recover'd himself.

As he had a numerous Family, he was very willing to turn his Hand to any thing, for the support of it, try'd several ways Abroad which would have been very serviceable, had it not expos'd him too much to the Fury of his Creditors, and once in particular he came to me when I liv'd in *Black-Fryars*, (afterwards next Door but one to him) and desir'd I would let him carry some Journals out for me which I then Printed, complaining that the Decay of his Trade since the Sickness beforemention'd, had put him so behind hand with the World, that he would willingly do any Thing in an honest way for the support of his Family; as he was my Neighbour and I had had known him several Years before, as I had some Customers who had Subscrib'd to my Paper from the first of its coming out, I gave him three Shillings for Serving some of them which he would do early in the Morning, and afterwards do as good a Days Work at his own Business, even if it was Abroad as if he had done nothing before, for as he serv'd them mostly to my Acquaintance, there was no further Occasion than only just to Deliver them and go about his Business, without Crying them as the Hawkers do; and this to the best of my Remembrance,

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brance, he follow'd as long as the Government would let me Print it without Trouble, which is now almost Seven Years ago, and then I left that Neighbourhood.

The Merchants not bringing their Business to his House for the Reason abovemention'd, he would go Abroad and do it at their Warehouses or other Places where they pleas'd to appoint him; but here was the difference between Working at Home and going Abroad; For at Home they were not Judges of what Trouble it took him up, but when they came to have it done under their own Roofs, they brought him to so much a Day and so Employ'd him as a Journeyman; but this his Business was but some Months in the Year, and the difference between going Abroad to his Work, and having it brought Home to him, made such an Alteration in him, that in time it brought him into such Company, that he seldom brought much Home to his Wife, neither could I find his Family knew certainly which way he Consum'd it, and his Business being so trifling at Home, that even what Jobbs were brought to the House would scarce keep it as it used to do; and even of that little that was Taken, he would force a great part of it from his Wife to support his own Expences, notwithstanding her Entreaties and the Necessities of his Family to the contrary.

I had very little Knowledge of him from the time I left that Neighbourhood otherwile, than that if I had any thing for him to do, 'till about 12 Months agoe, when he came to me and desired I would put him in a way how to Contradict a Report some of the publick Papers had Inserted of his Eldest Daughter being with Child by him, and by the Direction I gave him, he had it Contradicted accordingly, and a Taylor's Wife who Occasion'd it, beg'd his Pardon in most of the Houses of Call for Taylors in *Black-Fryers*, as a part of his Livelihood depended upon that Business. The Report being in a manner Silenc'd, afterwards I inform'd him of a Neighbour of his, who told me they had seen an unbecoming Familiarity between him and his Daughter, but notwithstanding I could have positively Swore it had he Sued them for the Scandal; they deny'd it with all the Impudence imaginable, from which I had that Charity to think him Guiltless, and 'tis very likely that the Whole Story only rais'd from that Persons telling the same to others as well as me; upon this occasion he was oblig'd to send for the Daughter Home, who had just agreed with another Cloth-Drawer (who was her Father's Acquaintance) for Eight Pounds a Year and her Diet, &c. being Accounted (tho' a Woman) as good a Hand as most of the whole Business. However, he had her Home tho' he had Hands enough to do his own Business, that the World might not say, that he had sent her Abroad to Lye in.

The

The Murther of his Wife Reviv'd the Story of him and his Daughter, and as Story seldom loose by Carrying, by the time he came to his Tryal, he was Reported to have had two or three Children by her, and that she was then Big with another, for which she ought to be torn in pieces Alive, and the Lord knows what besides, without the least Proof, but from the heedless Tatling of a Drunken Woman, who still continues to Justify, that she never saw any thing between the Father and the Daughter, that should give the least occasion for what she had caused to be Reported and has still the same Sorrow for having Occasioned those Reports upon a Miserable Family which has lately had so many Misfortunes upon the Back of one another.

It was but a few Months before the Murther, that some or other of the Neighbourhood, had without the least Knowledge or Consent of the Father, Inveigled this Daughter into a Marriage with a Person, who it is very likely had another Wife and Children Living, or at least a Woman and two or three Children who laid that Claim to him, and the Man not being a Freeman of London, disqualify'd her from what before she had the Privilege of, that is, to Work in any part of the City as being a Freemans Daughter, which she cannot Recover without proving a Prior Marriage to another now Living; who notwithstanding her Challenging, is not in the least willing to be any farther concern'd with him, for the Miserable Condition he has brought Mr. Brinkden's Daughter to, which is Visible to all that have any knowledge of her; and if she who pretended a Prior Marriage would only Prove it, she would perhaps do the greatest piece of Service to a Miserable Family imaginable, by Enabling the other to prove the latter Marriage Unlawfull, whereby she would recover the Liberty of Working Abroad as formerly, and might be partly very assisting to the Younger Children, being Able for several Months in the Year (if she Recovers her Health) to earn fifteen or sixteen Shillings a Week at her Father's Business.

Another Handle to this last time of Reviving the Report of their Incest, was, that a Clergyman, Reader of the Parish, should have Publickly said, that he knew a Man that could Prove that the Daughter had been Deliver'd of a Child that she had by her Father; had this been True, what occasion they had to bring a Man into the Secret, seems to be somewhat beyond my Comprehension, and even suppose her Case might require a Man Midwife, here must certainly be a Murther Conceal'd, and the Person thus let into the Secret, must be one of a very slender Reputation for not having Devulg'd it then, and not Proving what it has Occasion'd to be so Industiously spread Abroad now.

This Story occasion'd my waiting upon that Gentleman, who not only assur'd me that it was very False, but Visited Mr. Brinsden last Friday Morning, and afterwards express'd himself in favour of the Criminal, that *He was very Sorry that the World should raise such a Malicious Report of him, and that he left him a true Penitent.* This was some time after, that the Daughter who was the Evidence against him upon his Tryal, had earnestly desired to see her Father to ask his Pardon for what she had Swore against him, and to desire him to be Reconciled to her before he Dy'd, but attempting that Reconciliation in the Chappel, he refus'd it then, but was brought into better the next Day : This Reverend Gentleman and another, Visited him afterwards, by reason that the Ordinary Press'd him so much to own the Incest with his Daughter ; that as the Prisoner and other of his Fellow-Sufferers express'd it, that *urging the Confession of Sins they were never Guilty of to such a Degree, as to put them out of Temper, and hinder'd them from that Great Work they had such a small Time to Perform in ;* for as to Mr. Brinsden of the ten Weeks, from the time of his Commitment to that of his Execution, he was Ill with the Prison Distemper above Seven Weeks at Times, which very often Bereav'd him of his Senses.

This Illness made him Husband his Time the better, when he was Able to Perform his Devotions, but as to the Difference between him and the Ordinary, in Relation to the pretended Crime with his Daughter, made him more willing to Embrace the Visits other Ministers made him.

To mention his TRYAL, he was Indicted for giving his Wife *Hannah* one Mortal Wound under the left Pap of the length of one Inch, and depth of six Inches on the 16th of July last, of which Wound she Instantly Died. He was a second time Indicted for the said Murther on the Coroners Inquisition. *Hannah Brinsden* Deposed, that about nine at Night, her Mother (the Deceas'd) sitting on the Bed and suckling her Child, ask'd her Father (the Prisoner) what she should have for her Supper ? He Answer'd *Bread and Cheese can't you eat that as well as the Children ?* No, says she, I want a bit of Meat, I have no Money to buy any, says he ; you know said the Deceas'd, I have had but little to Day ; D——m ye

you Bitch, say s the Prisoner, I'll Stick ye the next Word you Speak. The Deceas'd again ask'd for Meat, and then the Prisoner push'd her back with his Left Hand, and Stab'd her under the Breast with a Knife which he had in his Right Hand. The Evidence seeing the Blood flow so fast from her Mother, ran and took the Child from her Breast, and her elder Sister Betty cry'd, *Lord Father have you Murder'd my Mother!* He Swore, *D——m ye you Bitch hold your Tongue or I'll Stick you too,* and then putting the Knife into his Mouth, he sent the Evidence for *Sugar* with *Basilicon*, which having apply'd to the Wound, he went away, and the Deceas'd Dy'd in about half an Hour after, and by means of a Letter to Mrs. Horn, in *Bridewell-Pracinct*, was taken in Bed at Mr. King's, a Barbers at *Shadwell-Dock*. The Surgeon said the Wound was Mortal, and he could perceive no Motion of her Pulse. There appear'd several of his Neighbouras, &c. to the indifference of his Reputation, and those who might not have given him such an indifferent Character, said nothing to the contrary upon hearing the Inhumane Manner in which the Murther was Committed; among the Former of these People was *Mary Right* his Wife's Mother, *Mrs. Gasely*, *Mrs. Goodwin*; two Clear Starchers that Lodged in the Prisoner's House, and the Woman (to use the Words of the *Sessions Paper*) at the *Gin-shop* next Door to him.

Between the time of his Conviction and that of his Execution, his Children Petition'd the Princess, that she would be Graciously pleas'd to Intercede for Mercy for him. That he had been formerly Ty'd down in his Bed nine Months together; and that the Murther was rather an effect of Madness, &c. thsn of any Design: However, It is suppos'd, this latter part of it might be design'd only to make his Case look the better; but as it happen'd to be of no effect, it shall Occasion no farther to be said of it.

On the Day of Execution, the Daughter who was Evidence against him, was set up into the Cart to him by *Holbourn-Bridge* to take her last Farewell, where after Kissing him several times, he again Repeated, he forgave her and all the World; and when he came to the place of Execution, design'd to have Read the Paper Printed at the latter end of this Account, which he Deliver'd to a Person who Attended to bring it to the Press, which was interrupted by the Ordinary, having so
very

very much to do with him after the Rest, to get somewhat of a Speech from him ; and after a considerable Time spent, the Ordinary told the People, that Mr. *Brinsden* told him, to tell them, that they might tell other People, that his Voice was so very low that he could not be heard ; and then the Ordinary told them every Thing that he told him, that they might tell it to other People Accordingly, viz.

I was born of kind Parents, who gave me Learning ; went Apprentice to a Fine-Drawer ; I had often Fars, which might occasion a natural Waspsishness in my Temper. I fell in Love with Hannah my late Wife, and after much Difficulty won her ; she having 5 Suitors at the same Time. We had 10 Children, (half of them dead) and I believe we lov'd each other dearly ; but often quarrell'd and fought. Pray good People mind, I had no Malice against her, nor thought to kill her 2 Minutes before the Deed ; but I design'd only to make her obey me thoroughly, which the Scripture says, all Wives should do : This I thought I had done, when I cut her Skull on Monday, but she was the same again by Tuesday.

Good People, I request you to observe, that tho' the World has spitefully given out, that I carnally and incestuously lay with my eldest Daughter, I here solemnly declare, as I am entering into the Presence of God, I never knew whether she was Man or Woman, since a Babe ; I have often taken her in my Arms, often kiss'd her, sometimes given her a Cake or Pye, when she did any particular Service, beyond what came to her Share ; but never lay with her, or carnally knew her, much less had a Child by her : But when a Man is in Calamities, and hated like me, the Women will make Surmizes by Certainties. Good Christians Pray for me ; I deserve Death ; I am willing to die ; for tho' my Sins are great, God's Mercies are greater.

At the place of Execution, he behav'd himself the most Sedately of all the Criminals, and with the intended Speech Deliver'd a *Thomas a Kempis* which he used in the Passage from the Prison to the Place of Execution : from whence Desir'd the following meditation of a Desolate Persons flinging himself upon the mercy of God, might be printed with his Case, and part of the 109th Psalm, &c. ¶

L O R D

' Lord God, holy Father, thy holy Name be now and for ever
 ' blessed; because as thou wilt, so is it done, and what
 ' thou doest, is good. Let thy Servant rejoyce in thee, not in
 ' himself, nor any thing else, for thou alone art the true Glad-
 ' ness, thou art my Joy and my Honour, O Lord. What hath
 ' thy Servant, but what he hath received from thee, even
 ' without any desire of his? Thine is all that thou hast given,
 ' and whatsoever thou hast made. I am poor, and in labours
 ' from my youth: And sometimes my Soul is heavy even unto
 ' Tears, sometimes also it is troubled in it self, by reason of pas-
 ' sions which rise against it.

' I desire the joy of peace, I crave the peace of the Children
 ' that are fed by thee in the light of comfort. If thou give peace,
 ' if thou infuse holy joy, the Soul of thy Servant shall be full of
 ' heavenly sweetness, and shall become devout in thy praise:
 ' But if thou withdraw thy self, as very often thou art wont,
 ' he will not be able to run the ways of thy Commandments,
 ' but rather he boweth his knees, and knocketh his breast, for
 ' that it is not with him, as it was yesterday, and the day be-
 ' fore, when thy light shined upon his head, and he was protect-
 ' ed under the shadow of thy Wings, from the Temptations which
 ' violently assaulted him.

' O Righteous Father, and ever to be praised, the hour is come,
 ' that thy Servant is to be proved! Behold, Father, it is fit
 ' that in this hour thy Servant suffer, Father, worthy of
 ' ternal Honour! the Hour is come that for a short time thy
 ' Servant should outwardly be oppressed, be a little despised,
 ' and humbled, and made as an abject in the Sight of Men
 ' and much afflicted with passions and infirmities, that he may
 ' rise again with thee, in the rising of new light, and be cla-
 ' rified in Heaven. Holy Father, thou hast so appointed it,
 ' and wilt have it so; and this is fulfilled which thou thy
 ' self hast commanded.

' It is a grace and favour to thy Servant to suffer, and to be
 ' afflicted in the World, by whomsoever thou permittest to fall up-
 ' on him. Without thy Counsel and Providence, and without cause
 ' nothing is done upon Earth. It is good for me, Lord, that
 ' thou hast humbled me, that I may learn thy righteous Judg-
 ' ments, and cast away all haughtiness of Heart, and Presump-
 ' tion.

tion. It is profitable to me, that shame hath covered my face;
that I may rather seek comfort from thee, than from Men.

I give thee thanks, that thou hast not spared the Punishment
of my sins, but hast worn me away with bitter stripes, inflicting
sorrows, and sending grief within and without. There is
none under Heaven that can comfort me, but thou my Lord God,
the heavenly Physician of Souls, that strikest and healest, bring-
est into Hell, and drawest out again; Let thy Rod instruct
me.

Behold, behold, Father, I am in thy Hands. I bow my
self under the Rod of thy Correction: Let my neck and shoul-
ders feel the stripes of thy Chastisement, that my crookedness
may be conformed to thy Will. I commend my self, and all mine,
unto thee to be corrected. It is better to be rebuked here, than
hereafter. Thou knowest all and every thing, and there is
nothing hidden in the Conscience of Man, which can be hidden
from thee: Before things are done thou knowest that they will
happen, and hast no need that any should teach or admi-
nistr thee of those things which are done on Earth. Thou know-
est what is expedient for my good, and how much Tribulation
is fit for purging the rust of my Sins. Do with me accord-
ing to thy desired pleasure, and despise not my sinful Life, bet-
ter and more clearly known to none, than to thee alone.

Grant me, O Lord, to know that which is to be known, to
love that which is to be beloved, to praise that which pleaseth
thee most: To esteem that which is precious unto thee, to de-
spise that which is contemptible in thy sight: Suffer me not
to judge according to the sight of the exterior eyes, nor to give
sentence according to the hearing of the ears of ignorant Men;
but to determine of visible and spiritual things with a true
Judgment, and above all things ever to search after thy Will
and Pleasure.

The Senses of Men are often deceived in their Judgments;
the Lovers of the World are also deceived in loving only visible
things. What is a Man the better, for that he is esteemed
great by Man? The deceitful Man deceiveth the deceitful,
the vain the vain, the blind deceiveth the blind, and one fee-
ble likewise another, whilst he exalteth and praiseth him.

What

' What have I done, O Lord, that thou should'st impart any
 ' heavenly Comfort unto me? I remember not that I have ever
 ' done any good, but have been always prone to sin, and sloath-
 ' ful in my amendment. It is true, and I cannot deny it. If
 ' If I should say otherwise, thou would'st stand against me.
 ' What have I deserved for my sins, but Hell and everlasting
 ' Fire? I confess in the Truth of my Heart, that I am worthy
 ' of all scorn and contempt, and it is unfit that I should be
 ' Numbred among thy Servants. And altho' I be unwilling to
 ' bear this, yet notwithstanding for the love of Truth, I will
 ' lay open my sins against my self, that I may the better deserve
 ' to obtain thy mercy.

' I can utter out of my Mouth, no other Word, but this: I
 ' have sinned, Lord, I have sinned, have mercy on me; pardon
 ' me, suffer me a little, that I may bewail my grief, before
 ' I go unto the Land of Darknes, and be covered with the sha-
 ' dow of Death. What dost thou require of a guilty and mise-
 ' rable sinner, but that he be contrite and sorrowful, and so
 ' humble himself for his Offences?

' Humble contrition for sins is an acceptable Sacrifice unto
 ' thee, O Lord, savouring much sweeter in thy sight than burn-
 ' ing Frankincense. This is also the pleasant Oyntment, which
 ' thou would'st have poured upon thy sacred Feet: For thou ne-
 ' ver despisest a contrite and humble Heart, There is a place
 ' of refuge from the face of the Wrath of our enemy; there is
 ' amended, and washed away whatsoever uncleanness hath been
 ' elsewhere gathered, and whatsoever is defiled.

Part of the 109th P S A L M.

HOLD not thy Tongue O God of my Praise: For the Mouth
 of the Ungodly; yea, the Mouth of the Deceitful is opened
 upon me.

They have spoken against me with false Tongues: The Com-
 passed me about also with Words of Hatred.

For the Love that I had unto them; Lo, they take now my con-
 trary Part, but I give my self unto Prayer; Thus have they Re-
 warded me Evil for Good.

And

And that because his Mind was not to do good, but that he might slay him that was vexed at Heart.

Let it be unto him as the Cloak that he hath upon him, and to those that speak Evil against my Soul.

Deal then with me O Lord God, according unto thy Name, for sweet is thy Mercy.

O Deliver me, for I am Helpless and Poor, and my Heart is Wounded within me.

I go hence like the Shadow that departeth, and am driven away as the Grasshopper.

My Knees are Weak through Fasting, and my Flesh is dried up for want of Fatness.

I am become also a Reproach unto them: They that looked upon me shaked their Heads.

Help me Lord, my God: Save me according to thy Mercy.

And they shall know that this is thy Hand: and that thou Lord hast done it.

Though they Curse, yet Bless thou, and let thy Servant Rejoyce.

Out of the COLLECTS.

O Lord Raise up (we Pray thee) thy Power and come among us and with great Might Succour us, that whereas thro' our Sins and Wickedness, we are hinder'd in Running the Race that is set before us, by thy Bountiful Grace and Mercy, may speedily Help and Deliver us.

We Beseech thee Absolve thy People from their Offences, that through thy Bountiful Goodness, we may all be Deliver'd from the Bands of those Sins, which by our frailty we have Committed.

Thou seest we have no Power of our selves to help our selves, keep us both outwardly in our Bodies, and inwardly in our Souls, that we may be Defended in those Adversities which must happen to the Body, and all Evil Thoughts that may Assault or Hurt the Soul.

That we who are justly Punished for our Offences, may be Mercifully Delivered by thy Goodness, for the Glory of thy Name, through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who Liveth and Reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God World without End. Amen.

"What have I done, O Lord, that thou should'st impart any
 heavenly Comfort unto me? I remember not that I have ever
 done any good, but have been always prone to sin, and sloath-
 ful in my amendment. It is true, and I cannot deny it. If
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 elsewhere gathered, and whatsoever is defiled.

Part of the 109th P s A L M.

HOLD not thy Tongue O God of my Praise: For the Mouth
 of the Ungodly; yea, the Mouth of the Deceitful is opened
 upon me.

They have spoken against me with false Tongues: The Com-
 passed me about also with Words of Hatred.

For the Love that I had unto them; Lo, they take now my con-
 trary Part, but I give my self unto Prayer; Thus have they Re-
 warded me Evil for Good.

And

And that because his Mind was not to do good, but that he might slay him that was vexed at Heart.

Let it be unto him as the Cloak that he hath upon him, and to those that speak Evil against my Soul.

Deal then with me O Lord God, according unto thy Name, for sweet is thy Mercy.

O Deliver me, for I am Helpless and Poor, and my Heart is Wounded within me.

I go hence like the Shadow that departeth, and am driven away as the Grasshopper.

My Knees are Weak through Fasting, and my Flesh is dried up for want of Fatness.

I am become also a Reproach unto them: They that looked upon me shaked their Heads.

Help me Lord, my God: Save me according to thy Mercy.

And they shall know that this is thy Hand: and that thou Lord hast done it.

Though they Curse, yet Bless thou, and let thy Servant Rejoyce.

Out of the COLLECTS.

O Lord Raise up (we Pray thee) thy Power and come among us and with great Might Succour us, that where-as thro' our Sins and Wickedness, we are hinder'd in Running the Race that is set before us, by thy Bountiful Grace and Mercy, may speedily Help and Deliver us.

We Beseech thee Absolve thy People from their Offences, that through thy Bountiful Goodness, we may all be Deliver'd from the Bands of those Sins, which by our frailty we have Committed.

Thou seest we have no Power of our selves to help our selves, keep us both outwardly in our Bodies, and inwardly in our Souls, that we may be Defended in those Adversities which must happen to the Body, and all Evil Thoughts that may Assault or Hurt the Soul.

That we who are justly Punished for our Offences, may be Mercifully Delivered by thy Goodness, for the Glory of thy Name, through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who Liveth and Reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God World without End. Amen.

To the Reverend Mr. Purney, Ordinary and
Chaplain of Newgate.

Reverend Sir,

UPON Reading an Advertizement in your Dying Speech, that whatever Account Relating to Mr. Brinsden, should come out, and not by your Printer was false. I must own the Right of you and your Predecessors, to the common Sessions Paper is beyond all Dispute; but if that any Criminal whatsoever who shall Suffer by malicious Prosecutions, or the Reproaches of Crimes they were never Guilty of, shall Presume to let the World have a True State of their Case, whether lest in Writing by themselves, or Publish'd by their Friends, without the Sanction of your Name, it must be presently False Counterfeit and the like; Your Pretensions to so much Truth against the Falibility of other Accounts may justly bring your Infalibility into Question in a Protestant Nation.

As to the Speech you have told the People, Mr. Brinsden told you; I must beg Leave to tell you, that the said Mr. Brinsden was never Apprentic'd, but Learn'd his Trade of his Father; that he had Eleven Children by his Wife and has Six Children now Living, which is one more Born, and one more Alive than what you have Mentioned; that a Man should forget how many Children he had Alive, seems to give no small Discredit to the rest of the Account.

As to your Messenger you sent for him to come to Chappel, had you Visited him your self; instead of hearing he was a Roman Catholick, you had found him in a very Weak Condition, unable to come up to Chappel; that his Friends were obliged to get other Ministers to come and give him Instructions, which his not being able to come to Chappel Depriv'd him of.

I desire you would Excuse my not Crediting what you have said of him in Relation to his Wife, viz. That he said she was of such an odd Temper, that nothing but Beating would do with her, and she was commonly good for a Week after; but if he let alone for a Fortnight, she would consume all, and turn the House almost upside down.

I am S I R Yours, &c.

Sept. 28, 1722.

The PUBLISHER.



To his CHILDREN the Evening before Execution.

My Dear Children,

THE Sentence which is to be Executed upon me for the Unfortunate Murther of your Tender Loving Mother, will justly cut me off from any further Conversation with you in this World; all that my Wicked Courses have left me to Bequeath you, is my Advice, which I hope may be of some Use, tho' only the preventing any of you or others, from falling into the Snares the Devil lays up and down to Trap the Unwary; for 'tis too certain, that the Pleasures of the World are very short, and Perish almost in a Moment, but are most surely and certainly attended with Lasting Sorrows, and for one Comfort you must meet with many Disappointments.

In the first Place, I Entreat you to Love and Comfort one another as much as possible; and if it shall please God, that you who are Grown up, and able to get your own Living, that you assist the Younger with your Authority and Advice; and if you ever hear any Reports of their Untourdliness that whenever you find them Criminal, that you Desire the Nurses, or where they go to School, to give them due Correction; but if you find them not that way Inclenable, encourage what you see Commendable in them; that by their civil Behaviour, they themselves may in time, be able to Repay you, by taking the same Care of yours, if it should please God to take any of you before your own are able to Shift for themselves, and Struggle in the World. Consider, you are all the Children of one Marriage, and that it is the earnest Request of your Dying Father, that you Assist one another to the utmost of your Power.

Secondly, That you Guard your selves against the Calumnies Idle People may spread Abroad concerning any of you, and if it should please God that some of you should never be any higher Plac'd in the World than as Servants, that you Behave your Selves with Prudence and Modesty, and discharge that Trust with a Duty becoming the Station God has been pleas'd to Appoint you; but if otherwise,

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and

and you should have the Charge of a Family under your Care, Consider that you are to be Answerable for what ever they Commit against the Knowledge of their Duty. If in either of these Stations upon any Account whatsoever, any Wicked or Malicious Person should ever Asperse you for my Misfortunes, Consider that God is Just, and let it have no other Power upon you, but only to Reprove them Mildly, and I heartily wish the World may never have Occasion to say any Thing worse of you; Depend upon it, their Malice will return into their own Breasts, but then it is your Duty to pray to God to forgive them; It is a great Conquest to have the Command of your Passion, but it is a greater Degree to have your Wills Regular to the Will of God.

And Lastly, That above all Things you Attend the Publick Worship at all convenient Seasons, and let no Consideration whatsoever work upon you to break the Sabbath, a Crime I have been notoriously Guilty of; for be certain, that if you sincerely put your self under the Protection of Heaven, you will not fail of happy Days, and will always have that Guard over you, against which the greatest Force that can be brought together can at Prevail, and that you often Recall this to your Remembrance, is the Last Request of

Newgate;
Sept. 23. 1722.

Your Dying Father

Matthias Brinsden.

At the Place of Execution.

THE Divine Law to which all the Civiliz'd Nations under Heaven are Conformable; That, *Whosoever sheds Man's Blood, by Man shall his Blood be shed*, has justly brought me to this Place to suffer a shameful Death; to Deter such Presumptuous Sinners as I have been, from Offending in the like Nature, that by Reguarding whom God has set before ye, you may escape that Vengeance, which sooner or later, Overtakes such Incurable, Offenders as my Example shall not Reclaim. I am Wofully sunk into the Depth of Sin, where no stay is; but I hope the Lord will uphold me by his Grace, that I Perish not Eternally, and convey those happy Streams of Comfort to my Sinful Soul, that may Revive me from the Grave of Misery.

I Confess

I Confess my self to have been a Grievous Sinner, and that above all the rest, my Offence against that Great Command of God, *Thou shalt do no Murther*, has been so much the more Heinous, by being Committed upon the Wife of my Bosom, who notwithstanding what I may have said of her, was a Meek and Vertuous Woman, a Wife who had laid by me above Two and Twenty Years, and had bore me Eleven Children, of which Six are now Living, and the Lord Grant they may Patiently and Joyfully Embrace the Wrongs and Injuries of this Life for his Sake, who I hope, hath been Patient even unto Death for mine ; for I have Rob'd them of a very Tender Mother, who Succour'd them to the utmost of her Power notwithstanding the continual Discouragements from me, and all the cold Water I could fling upon her Affections. The Lord make me truly sensible of the greatness of my Misery, and forgive the many violent Eruptions of my Sinful Passions.

'Tis now too late to wish that had I taken her Advice, my Family, tho' large, might have had a better Provision made for them, and had very likely seen some of them plac'd in the World ; but such had been the Course of my Wicked Life, even before this Unnatural Murther, that nothing but this could have Reclaimed me ; by this you may see my Disobedience to my most Bountiful Benefactor who had bestow'd such Infinite Blessings upon me has justly overtaken me by an Untimely Death ; and the Lord Enable me to Suffer this Visitation with Meekness and Contentedness of Soul as becomes a true Penitent ; and so Bless it unto me, that it may bring forth in me that Quiet and Happy Fruit of Righteousness, which is far beyond the greatest Pleasures of this Sinful World.

As I am upon the Brink of Eternity, next to asking Forgiveness of a justly Offended God for those Innumerable Sins I have been really Guilty of ; I earnestly beg of all Good Christians, that they will be so Charitable, as to take it upon the Word of a Dying Man, that as to that most Abominable Sin of Incest which it has been so very Confidently and Wickedly Reported I had Committed with my Eldest Daughter, is one of the most Malicious, Scandalous and Basest Reports that ever was Invented ; and I here Affirm in the Presence of God, before whose Great Tribunal I must give a Just Account for all the Actions of my Wicked Life, that I was never Guilty of any such Crime with my said Eldest Daughter or any other of my Daughters or Relations whatsoever : How those Wicked People who occasion'd the spreading it, and especially, since the Misfortune to my Wife, will Answer it before that Great Judge ; I am not to Determine, but I pray God
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forgive

them and all other Persons who ever Committed or Designed any Evil against me whatsoever, as I hope all People to whom I ever gave any Offence, will be no less Charitable to me. The Lord Banish from me all Desires of Revenge, and let Patience have its perfect Work to Direct me here and (I hope) Crown me hereafter.

To Prevent if possible the continuance of such Idle Story's after my Death, which no Person whatsoever could ever prove to my Face when Living; let them only Consider the Prejudice it may already have done, by Occasioning what little Business I had Left (before that Unfortunate Murther) to be taken from my Family, who might otherwise have been Instrumental in bringing up my lesser Children, who I believe would not have been Chargeable to any Body but the Elder. Pray God Succour and Keep them all under his Protection, and Defend them against whatever Evil Designers or Wicked Reporters may at any Time do or contrive to their Prejudice. I shall Conclude, by desiring the Prayers of all the standers by, for God to give me and my Fellow-Sufferers a Patient and Willing Heart, to welcome all the Changes of this present Life, and that we may be Joyfully prepared amidst the Pains of Death to lay hold of him whose Mercy is Infinite, and who patiently and willingly Suffer'd a cruel and shameful Death, for the Redemption of the greatest of Sinners.

Matthias Brinsden.



E. A. G. P.
1/27/06.